



Maine Forest Service Consultants Newsletter & Ice Storm Update #8 November 1999



Fall 1999 Training Session Draws Over 200 Consultants from Throughout the State

More than 200 forest consultants attended the Fall 1999 Professional Development Training on October 18 at the Augusta Civic Center. The keynote speaker was Thom McEvoy, University of Vermont Cooperative Extension Forester, who spoke on legal aspects of owning and managing woodlands.

Consultants who attended the session are eligible to remain on the Maine Forest Service list of consulting foresters for 3 years. If you are not sure when you last attended training (you must attend once every 3 years to remain on the list), contact Kathy Nitschke at (207) 287-1073.

Changes to SIP Cost-Share Rates for Pruning

The USDA Forest Service has informed us that we will no longer be allowed to use flat rates for the SIP cost-share program. The only practice where Maine has used a flat rate is for pruning, Component Code #660. Instead of receiving a flat rate per tree, landowners will now receive 75% of the cost, not to exceed the former flat rates. This affects landowners who apply for cost-share and are approved after November 1, 1999. Landowners approved prior to November 1, 1999 will be reimbursed at the flat rate.

Wooden Mats Available for Use as Temporary Bridges

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline has available a supply of wooden mats that were used in the construction of the new natural gas pipeline. These make great portable temporary stream crossings. The prices and sizes available are:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 8" thick X 4' wide X 18' long | \$250.00 each |
| 12" thick X 4' wide X 18' long | \$396.00 each |
| 12" thick X 4' wide X 24' long | \$521.50 each |
| 12" thick X 4' wide X 30' long | \$669.00 each |

If you are interested in these, contact Ray Hicks at Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline at (207) 623-4904 (work) or (207) 592-3624 (car).

Exclude Invasive Plants: Native Seed Mix for Logging Roads and Other Uses

A seed mix for stabilizing critical areas and putting roads to bed has been developed by New England Environmental, Inc. of Amherst, Mass. This mix contains only plants native to Maine, with no exotic invasive plants. It is called the Maine Logging Road Seed Mix, and contains:

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>% in Mix</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Deertongue Grass | <i>Panicum clandestinum</i> | 30% |
| Switchgrass | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | 20% |
| Creeping Red Fescue | <i>Festuca rubra</i> | 23% |
| Canada Wild Rye | <i>Elymus canadensis</i> | 10% |
| Little Bluestem | <i>Andropogon scoparius</i> | 5% |
| Indian Grass | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | 5% |
| Big Bluestem | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | 2% |
| Sensitive Plant | <i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i> | 2% |
| Showy Tick Trefoil | <i>Desmodium canadense</i> | 1% |
| Oxeye Sunflower | <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> | 1% |
| Black Eye Susan | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | 0.5% |
| New England Aster | <i>Aster novae</i> | 0.5% |

This mixture should be seeded at a rate of 20 lbs./acre. Cost is about \$14.30 per pound.

For more information, contact Mickey Marcus at (413) 256-0202.

Selling Wood to International Paper

As of October 31, 1999, non-industrial private landowners who are cutting wood ON THEIR OWN LAND can send up to 10 vehicle loads (a vehicle being anything from a wheeler to a tractor trailer) of pulp to International Paper in Jay without being certified under one of the currently accepted logger training courses. There is a limit of 200 - 250 Tons per year. The wood still needs to go through a broker that supplies pulp to IP. The broker needs to call IP and have the landowner's name and situation added to the broker's list.

For more information, contact Dave Griswold, Supervisor of Operations & Fiber Control, Androscoggin Mill, Jay at (207) 897-3474 ext. 212.

New Publication

Christine Parrish of the Maine Forest Service has recently produced a publication, *The Woods in Your Backyard: A Homeowner's Guide*. The book introduces forest ecology and management concepts in a way that, according to the author, "... is both accessible, fun, and scaled down to be relevant to those who own as little as a quarter of an acre." There are eight parts to the publication:

1. Getting to Know Your Woods: A Landowner's Primer
2. Home Improvement for Wildlife: Making Your Woods Attractive to Wildlife
3. Beauty and Adventure Out Your Backdoor: A Place for Fun and Reflection
4. From Mushrooms to Maple Syrup: Specialty Products from Your Woods
5. Safe, Safer, Safest: Be Aware of Woodland Hazards
6. Being a Friend to Your Woods: Protecting Your Land From Damage
7. Neighborly and Family Relations: Benefits of Working Together
8. Turning Great Ideas into Action: Planning is the Key

Quantities are limited to one copy per request, but a supply of order forms is available from the Maine Forest Service at (207) 287-2791. The first 5,000 copies of *The Woods in Your Backyard* are available free to the public and will be distributed directly from the Maine Forest Service office in Augusta.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ICE STORM FUNDING!!!!!!!!!!

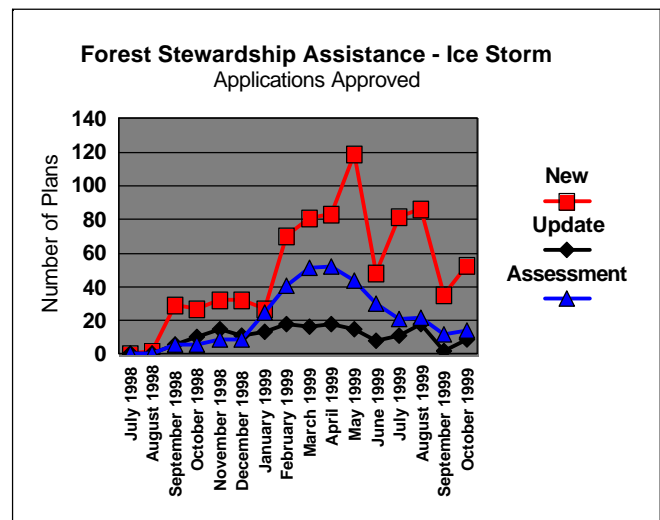
All plans and SIP practices must be completed and the paperwork to the Maine Forest Service District Forester no later than Friday, March 17, 2001. There will be no exceptions. The funding will disappear on April 1, 2001, returning to the coffers of the USDA Forest Service. There will not be any extensions.

Practices or plans that have been approved and are partly completed will not be carried over. Even if you have completed part of the project or plan or have finished it, but not turned in the paperwork, the practice/plan will be canceled and the responsibility for the entire cost of the practice/plan will revert to the landowner.

Ice Storm Update

As of October 26, 1999, landowners have applied for more than 3000 plans to be cost-shared under the Forest Stewardship Assistance Program. This covers 381,442 acres and commits \$3,307,845 for reimbursement. To date, 1354 plans have been completed, covering 175,453 acres, with cost share disbursements of \$1,147,183. Consultants have billed out \$1,561,729 for these plans. Funds are still available for management plans.

Most of the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) ice storm funds have been distributed to the various county Farm Service Agency Office. So far, more than \$3.3 million of the \$3.75 million allotment has been committed. Funds for SIP are starting to get tight and Maine Forest Service District Foresters will be prioritizing the remaining funds based on the degree of damage in the stand, the practices to be completed, and whether or not the landowner has received any cost-share funds for ice storm cleanup previously. Priority will be given to landowners who have not already received funds and practices that are removing safety hazards from the woodlot.



Also, landowners who were approved for cost-share funding for ice storm mitigation under SIP more than a year ago (prior to November 1, 1998) will be canceled if they have not made an appreciable effort to complete the practices for which they were approved. This will recycle funds within the county to new applicants.

The new 1999 ice storm aerial photography and indexes have been delivered to the MFS field foresters and county Farm Service Agency Offices. These photos are available through James W. Sewall Company as well.

Maine Forest Service Web Site

Update and Redesign

We are in the process of updating and redesigning the Maine Forest Service web site (<http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/mfshome.htm>). This effort will result in more timely information posted, improved and simplified viewings, and additional links. Purging of outdated materials will be completed by the end of 1999 with a redesign scheduled for the first quarter of 2000. We would like to include information pertinent to landowners as well as resource professionals. Here is your opportunity to have input into this redesign.

Is there any information that you would like posted on our site? Any reports, links, forms, or other materials? Now is your time to act.

If you have ideas, requests, comments, or questions concerning our web site, contact Kevin Doran. Email at kevin.doran@state.me.us or call direct at (207) 287-4988.

Maine Forest Service "Call Before You Cut" PSA Airst in Major Media Markets

The Maine Forest Service's first "Call Before You Cut" public service announcement began airing in major media markets November 1. The PSA, first in a series, features Field Forester Tim Post and Forest Ranger Bruce Reed. The goal of the PSA series is to encourage forest landowners to make an informed decision about harvesting their land, and to call the MFS for more information. By making an informed decision, landowners are less likely to become the victims of timber theft and fraud, and more likely to have a harvest conducted in compliance with state laws.

All TV stations in the state have a copy of the PSA to play on a no charge basis. In addition, the Maine Forest Service has purchased air time with Channel 5 in Bangor and Channel 13 in Portland. These stations will run the PSA approximately 40-50 times over the next three to four weeks, primarily during the morning and evening news.

The Maine Forest Service plans to track responses to the PSAs to determine where the best return on investment is occurring. More PSAs are scheduled to run during the winter. For more information, contact Kevin Doran at (207) 287-4988.

PEST ALERT

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Found in Out-Planted Nursery Stock in Maine

Maine's hemlock stands now face threats from an insect pest responsible for destroying much of southern New England's hemlock forests. In early September, a few trees in York which had been purchased from a Connecticut grower were found to be infested with Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).

HWA is an aphid-like insect that feeds exclusively upon forest and landscape hemlock. This is a serious pest problem that Maine had successfully excluded until now through our mandatory quarantine program which strictly regulates the conditions under which hemlock nursery materials and forestry products from infested states can enter Maine. Unfortunately, a shipment of untreated, infested hemlock trees from a nursery in Connecticut was shipped to two nurseries in Maine in April.

Although trees from this shipment have been out-planted, HWA populations are currently in a non-mobile state; to date there is no indication that populations have yet spread to native stands. While the populations are still restricted to the out-planted nursery stock, Maine has an opportunity to eradicate this pest - if we can locate the trees.

State officials are asking anyone who purchased hemlock trees from either Coastal Landscaping in York or Plants Unlimited in Rockport since April 1999 to contact these businesses directly, or to contact state agriculture or forestry officials.

Symptoms of HWA populations are difficult to detect in the early stages. Therefore, we are asking that any one who suspects that they might have purchased hemlocks not base their decision to call on whether or not they can see evidence of HWA infestation. If the public responds immediately to our alert, we will have a good chance of ensuring that the pest does not become established in the state.

CONTACT:

*David Bridges at Coastal Landscaping, (207) 363-6202
Hammon Buck at Plants Unlimited, (207) 594-7754
Ann Gibbs, State Horticulturist, (207) 287-3891
Dave Struble, State Entomologist, (207) 287-4986*

New Stewardship Management Plan Requirements

New standards for forest management plans drawn up under the Forest Stewardship Assistance Program have gone into effect. These new standards affect those landowners whose initial application for cost-share assistance is approved after November 1, 1999. Approvals before that date fall under the old standards.

Since Maine's plan standards are already high, we will have no trouble meeting these new federal requirements. A checklist that you can use is available from the Maine Forest Service. Items marked with an "R" are absolutes and the lack of one of them will automatically send the plan back to you for revision. You must meet at least 70% of all the other requirements. If you have any questions, please contact your Maine Forest Service District Forester.

The new requirements are:

1. Interaction with surrounding properties.
2. Check for historical, cultural and archaeological sites.
3. Check for important natural features.
4. Cruise, volumes, and estimated stumpage values for stands currently being harvested or to be harvested in the next 5 years.
5. Stand analysis table.

Threatened and Endangered Species Checks for Forest Management Plans

New natural resource plans and updates written under the Forest Stewardship Assistance cost-share program must include a section containing information on threatened and endangered plant and animal species. The species that you need to be concerned with are:

Plants

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Furbush's Lousewort | Prairie White-fringed Orchid |
| Small Whorled Pogonia | |

Animals

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Peregrine Falcon | Piping Plover |
| Roseate Tern | Bald Eagle |
| *Eskimo Curlew | *Gray Wolf |
| *Eastern Cougar | * (five whale species) |
| Loggerhead Turtle | |

*on the federal list, but not state listed.

For information on the plant species, contact the Maine Natural Areas Program at (207) 287-8044 or write to them at 93 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, attn.: Sarah Evans. If you would like a site

review, include a map showing the location of the woodlot and an explanatory letter. They can currently provide this service for free for people participating in the Forest Stewardship Assistance Program because of an ice storm grant from the Maine Forest Service. State in your letter that you are participating in that program. Without participation in Forest Stewardship Assistance, the general fee for information from the Natural Areas Program is \$75.00/hour.

For information on the animal species, contact the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologist in your area:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Ashland | (207) 435-3231 |
| Bangor | (207) 941-4466 |
| Enfield | (207) 732-4132 |
| Gray | (207) 657-2345 |
| Greenville | (207) 695-3756 |
| Machias | (207) 255-4715 |
| Sidney | (207) 547-5318 |
| Strong | (207) 778-3324 |

The Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologists can also supply information on essential habitats ("areas currently or historically providing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species in Maine and which may require special management considerations") and significant wildlife habitats, which include high and moderate value deer wintering areas and travel corridors and high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitats, including nesting and feeding areas.

Municipal Timber Harvesting Ordinances

Recent changes to the Forest Practices Act also affected municipal timber harvesting ordinances. In order to enact an ordinance a town must:

1. Hold a public meeting when making a substantial amendment to an existing ordinance.
 2. Mail a notice of the proposed new ordinance or amendment to all landowners.
 3. Use the 56 definitions established in the Forest Practices Act if the town ordinance defines terms - ordinances adopted before September 1, 1990 must comply by January 1, 2001.
- An informational sheet is available from the Maine Forest Service on the new requirements. Contact George Bourassa at (207) 287-4987.